
From: Stevenson, Allan (DPH)
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2008 10:04 AM
To: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Cc: Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Subject: RE: legislative hearings

Mike,

Do you have the text of this bill?

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From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2008 1:12 PM
To: Gilchrist, Mary (DPH); Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Stevenson, Allan (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Cc: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Subject: legislative hearings

For the past several years, I have had the interesting task of providing expertise in the evolution of a bill to amend the current drug laws. I have provided research and advice to Senate and House hearings regarding these changes. These changes have been gathering momentum through the committee processes and may be presented as a bill for consideration this year.

Yesterday, I was asked to present some material to a "pre-hearing" group on the House side, this coming Monday, May 12. In the past, Ralph Timperi permitted me to attend these meetings as "outside duty." It's been a year since I had to go to the Hill in this manner and I'm requesting approval to make these appearances as "outside duty," providing technical counsel to the Legislature, as a chemist.

As in the past, I will act as an expert in the discussion of technical aspects of the bill, so that the language is appropriate for the analysis we do in the lab. If pressed for any comment which might be of a "policy" nature, I will beg off the point and report the inquiry to the leadership at the State Lab.

This meeting Monday is rather mundane, a review of points of the language in a portion of the bill. However, as momentum is growing for consideration of this bill, the "Department of Public Health" will be expected to participate in the review process, as part of its mandate to test seized drugs and examine the status of emerging substances of abuse. I would like to review the status of the changes with all of you and frame a synopsis of the developments for Commissioner Auerbach.

The proposed changes include one which should provide a little testing *relief* for a step in the analysis of cocaine. However, "new" drugs are being proposed for controlled status and would *increase* laboratory testing. Would anyone else like to participate in these meetings and perhaps speak to the issue of resources?

Sincerely,
Mike Lawler